

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A ball screw device comprising:

a screw shaft comprising a spiral first screw groove on an outer periphery thereof;

a nut screw-engaged with the screw shaft, comprising:

a spiral second screw groove formed on an inner periphery thereof corresponding to the first screw groove; and

a pair of circulating holes on side surface thereof;

a plurality of rolling elements rollably mounted in a load region formed between the first and second screw grooves;

a circulating member made of resin, comprising:

 a rolling-element circulating path formed therein, which introduces the rolling element rolling in the load region from one of the pair of circulating holes to an outside of the nut, and also returns the rolling element to the load region via other of the pair of circulating holes; and

 both ends fitted to the pair of circulating holes; and

a metallic holding member for fixing the circulating member onto the nut, the holding member including a cap portion which surrounds only a portion of a circumference of the circulating member and a flange on which a hole is provided;

wherein the ~~circulation~~circulating member is substantially U-shaped tube having bending portions on both ends thereof;

wherein the holding member is manufactured by drawing processing; and

wherein the holding member substantially covers a main body of the circulation member including the bending portions thereof;

wherein a flat surface is provided on a cylindrical surface of the nut; and

wherein a screw is inserted through the hole of the flange so as to fix the holding member to the flat surface of the nut.

Claim 2 (original): The ball screw device according to claim 1, wherein the holding member is manufactured by sheet metal press processing.

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (original): The ball screw device according to claim 1, wherein the 5 holding member covers 60 % or more of a part of the circulating member, which is exposed from the side surface of the nut.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The ball screw device according to claim 1, wherein a rib for reinforcement is provided on the holding member.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The ball screw device according to claim 1, wherein a convex is formed at a part of a bent portion of the holding member.

Claim 7 (original): The ball screw device according to claim 1, wherein the circulating member comprises legs which fit in the circulating holes of the nut at both ends thereof, and wherein a path for scooping up the rolling elements and a path for returning the rolling elements are formed in the legs so as to be inclined relative to an outer periphery of the leg, respectively.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): A ball screw device comprising:
a screw shaft comprising a spiral first screw groove on an outer periphery thereof;
a nut screw-engaged with the screw shaft, comprising: a spiral second screw groove formed on an inner periphery thereof corresponding to the first screw groove; and a pair of circulating holes on side surface thereof;
a plurality of rolling elements rollably mounted in a load region formed between the first and second screw grooves;
a circulating member made of resin, comprising:
a rolling-element circulating path formed therein,
which introduces the rolling element rolling in the load region from one of the pair of circulating holes to an outside of the nut, and also returns the rolling element to the load region via other of the pair of circulating holes; and

both ends fitted to the pair of circulating holes; and
a metallic holding member for fixing the circulating member onto the nut, formed by sheet metal press processing,
wherein a bent portion for reinforcement is provided on a seat of the holding member for the nut.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The ball screw device according to claim 8, wherein the circulating member comprises legs which fit in the circulating holes of the nut at both ends thereof, and
wherein a path for scooping up the rolling elements and 25 a path for returning the rolling elements are formed in the legs so as to be inclined relative to an outer periphery of the leg, respectively.

Claim 10 (new): The ball screw device as set forth in claim 1, wherein
the cap portion extends in a longitudinal direction, and
both longitudinal ends of the cap portion have a semi-spherical shape so as to correspond to the bending portion of the circulation member.

Claim 11 (new): The ball screw device as set forth in claim 1, wherein
the cap portion is a semi-cylindrical shape extending in a longitudinal direction, and
a clearance is formed between a longitudinal end of the cap portion and the bending
portion of the circulating member.